Message Text

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ACTION CU-05

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P R 260913Z SEP 74 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4826

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USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MARTHA GRAHAM

- 1. POST SENDING IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM KAZUKO HILLYER TO GRAHAM COMPANY DIRECTOR RON PROTOS IN SEPTEL. WE ARE NOT INVOLVED IN THIS DISPUTE AND ARE MERELY ACTING AS GO-BETWEEN IN CABLING URGENT MESSAGES. GRAHAM PERFORMANCES IN JAPAN SPONSORED BY PRIVATE ORGANIZATION, NOT STATE DEPARTMENT. EMBASSY ONLY ACTING AS "SUPPORT" OF PROGRAM. LAST MINUTE CANCELLATION OF JAPAN TOUR WOULD BE DAMAGING TO U.S. CULTURAL EFFORTS IN JAPAN.
- 2. WITH THAT AS BACKGROUND, PLEASE IMPRESS UPON PROTOS SERI-OUSNESS OF SITUATION. IF HE REFUSES UNDERSTAND SITUATION, PLEASE TRY AND FORWARD INFORMATION TO GRAHAM HERSELF SO THAT SHE UNDERSTANDS PROBLEM.
- 3. PROBLEM IS TIMING OF PERFORMANCE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13. LOCAL JAPAN SPONSOR WANTS AFTERNOON PERFORMANCE, EVENING LECTURE-DEMONSTRATION. PROTOS WANTS REVERSED SCHEDULE. PROTOS ALSO INSISTS EVENING PERFORMANCE BEGIN AT 8 OR 8:30. IN JAPAN NO PERFORMANCES BEGIN THAT LATE. 7 P.M. IS VERY LATEST BECAUSE OF LONG STANDING CUSTOM AND EARLY TERMINATION OF BUS, TRAIN, SUBWAY SCHEDULES AROUND 11 P.M. OTHER POINT IS SUNDAY AFTERNOON PERFORMANCE TO BE MOST HEAVILY ATTENDED OF ALL. SUNDAY EVENING IS VERY POOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR PERFORMANCES IN JAPAN. SUNDAY AFTERNOON IS ONLY FREE

TIME AND AUDIENCE WOULD BE BIGGEST AND MOST ENTHUSIASTIC OF ALL WITH MANY YOUNG FAMILY GROUP ATTENDING.

- 4. LOCAL SPONSOR WILLING TO COMPROMISE AND SCHEDULE LECTURE-DEMONSTRATION AT VERY LATEST 7 P.M. BUT VERY RELUCTANT TO HAVE PERFORMANCE THEN AND LECTURE-DEMONSTRATION IN AFTERNOON FOR ABOVE REASONS. ALSO WILLING TO REDUCE SIZE OR SCALE OF LECTURE-DEMONSTRATION IF THAT HELPS SOLVE PROBLEM.
- 5. MANY OTHER DISPUTED POINTS, SOME VERY EMOTIONAL, BETWEEN HILLYER AND GRAHAM. FYI HILLYER SEEMS VERY SINCERE. WANTS TO ASSURE SURVIVAL OF GRAHAM CONTRACT AND PERFORMANCE IN JAPAN. SHE IS NOT, REPEAT NOT, AGENT OF LOCAL SPONSOR. BUT BEST IF YOU NOT GET INVOLVED IN OTHER COMPLICATED ASPECTS OF CONTRACT DISPUTE. MERELY EMPHASIZE THE REASONS FOR RELUCTANCE TO CHANGE SUNDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING PROGRAM TO FIT PROTOS REQUESTS.
- 6. HILLYER HAS SIGNED CONTRACT INCLUDING DATES AND TIMES ACCEPTABLE TO JAPANESE SPONSORS. WHILE WE HAVE HEARD ONLY ONE SIDE OF STORY, IT APPEARS FROM THIS SIDE THAT SCHEDULE CHANGES DEMANDED BY PROTOS ARE CONTRARY TO SIGNED CONTRACT, RECEIVED MONTHS AGO. TENNY

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